

see you again, I may be sitting on that side of this podium, so I look forward to that.

Thank you all for your patriotism, for your love of this great country, the greatest country that ever existed in the history of the world.

Let me tell you what is happening today. Today, the President will be signing the Respect for Marriage Act. That is a big deal for some of us. In my first speech on this floor, I talked about HIV and AIDS 35 years ago. One of the last bills I signed as Speaker for the first time was the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. One of the last bills I signed to send over to the President that he will sign today is the Respect for Marriage Act, in between the other things that relate to the hate crimes and all that.

The reason I mention it is because it was always an expansion of freedom in our country, and that is what we hope we always continue to do—ever increasing the freedom in our country.

At the end of the day, I will welcome 50 heads of state from Africa. The President is having an African summit now, and he will be welcoming 50 heads of state at the White House. Then, tonight, they will come here.

I am so proud that we can show them this temple of democracy, welcome them here, hear what they have to say, build a strong bond with them.

So many of you have been so much a part of everything that has happened here. I thank you for that, forever expanding freedom in our country. Thank you so much. Lovely to be with you.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for visiting with us, and thank you, especially, for your great leadership of the Congress.

The Speaker mentioned Don McEachin, our fellow Virginian, and she also mentioned Norm Mineta, both of whom passed away recently.

I would also like to say a few words about our good friend Jim Kolbe. As many of you may know, Jim passed away about a week ago. It was quite sudden and quite unexpected.

With his passing, we and FMC lost a good friend, a longtime board member, and a voice of reason and compassion during these tumultuous political times that we are currently experiencing. All of us at FMC, from the staff to the board, loved working with Jim. We will certainly miss him greatly.

As you may know, and many of you participate in this service, we, each year, organize a memorial service in Statuary Hall. The Speaker just talked about it. This is to honor the Members whom we have lost in the previous year. It is a fitting tribute to their public service.

I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of all the Members whom we honored in Statuary Hall this past September.

LIST OF FORMER MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY
FALL OCTOBER 2021–DECEMBER 2022

The Hon. Todd Akin (Missouri), Brad Ashford (Nebraska), Dan Benishek (Michi-

gan), Bill Brewster (Oklahoma), Clarence "Bud" Brown Jr. (Ohio), Albert Bustamante (Texas), Max Cleland (Georgia), Barbara-Rose Collins (Michigan), John Cooksey (Louisiana), Bob Dole (Kansas), Harris Fawell (Illinois), Vic Fazio (California), James Florio (New Jersey), Ed Foreman (Texas and New Mexico), George Gekas (Pennsylvania).

The Hon. Jim Hagedorn (Minnesota), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Kaneaster Hodges Jr. (Arkansas), Larry Hopkins (Kentucky), Carroll Hubbard (Kentucky), Johnny Isakson (Georgia), Timothy Johnson (Illinois), Dale Kildee (Michigan), James "Jim" Kolbe (Arizona), Bob Krueger (Texas), Claude "Buddy" Leach (Louisiana), Gary A. Lee (New York), Romano "Ron" Mazzoli (Kentucky), Jack H. McDonald (Michigan).

The Hon. A. Donald McEachin (Virginia), Carrie Meek (Florida), Norm Mineta (California), Dennis Moore (Kansas), John Porter (Illinois), Harry Reid (Nevada), J. Roy Rowland (Georgia), Norman D. Shumway (California), Neal Smith (Iowa), Mark Souder (Indiana), James Stanton (Ohio), Standish "Fletcher" Thomson (Georgia), Esteban Torres (California), Jolene Unsoeld (Washington), Jackie Walorski (Indiana), Don Young (Alaska), Bill Zeff (New Hampshire).

Mr. PAYNE. For them, and for Jim Kolbe, I am asking that you in the Chamber and any visitors in the gallery please stand, if you are able, so that we can show our respect to these Members with a moment of silence.

As you can see, FMC is an active and impactful organization that empowers Members to continue their service after leaving Congress. We are energized, and we are having tremendous success for, really, three reasons.

One is the outstanding work that our board and our staff have done to solidify our mission, to put in place achievable goals and strategize how to best move FMC forward.

The second reason is our amazing group of partners. These are the corporations that donate to us, especially by way of the Statesmanship Awards Dinner, because they believe in our purpose and recognize the positive impact we are having. They have meant so much to FMC and to allowing us to achieve our purpose.

You have heard of these entities. Connie mentioned them previously. They have done so much, and we so appreciate all that they have done. They believe in our capabilities, and they believe in giving us the opportunity to grow and create long-lasting programming and to allow us to do all the things that we are able to do. So, we thank them again.

The third and the most important reason for FMC's success is all of you, the former Members of Congress who are my colleagues who donate your time, expertise, wisdom, and leadership. You do this by becoming dues-paying, active members of FMC.

I hope that you retiring Members have found the insight that we have shared today helpful. We hope that you would also consider becoming part of us and help us continue this mission. We would love to connect with you in person, and I hope you will join us immediately after this downstairs in H-120. We will have a reception, and we would like to have you be part of that.

I would also like to thank our staff: Pete, who is here, and our staff members there, if you would all stand, please. Let's give them a round of applause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings during the former Members program be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the proceedings have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

Mr. ROSS. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. The Chair again wishes to thank the former and retiring Members of Congress of the House for their presence here today.

Before ending these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former and retiring Members who did not respond when the roll call was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

On behalf of FMC, my sincere thanks to all congressional staff who were such a terrific resource and support to make today's presentation possible. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the reception.

We are adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Satisfy us this morning, O Lord, with Your unfailing love, that our only response would be to sing to You our joy and be glad in all our days.

Today, may we be faithful not only in our words but in our deeds.

May we follow bravely Your footsteps wherever they may lead.

May we be uncompromising and honest with ourselves.

May there be no self-pity or self-indulgence in our lives today.

May our thinking be clear, our speech truthful and open, and our action courageous and decisive.

Our prayers today are not just for ourselves, but also for the communities and people we serve. And so we pray:

For all who today will face any great decision.

For all those today working to settle important affairs in the lives of individuals and nations.

For all who are shaping public opinion in our time.

For all who write what other people read.

For all who are lifting up the light of truth in a world of ignorance and sin.

For all whose hands are worn with too much work, and for the unemployed whose hands have found no work today.